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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

IÑUPIAT HERITAGE CENTER
Utqiagvik, Alaska
February 25, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brower Frantz, Chair
Leonard Barger
John Q. Adams
Peter Williams
Martha Itta

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiaġvik - 2/25/26)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. 9:00. I guess we can get started with the second day of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting in the Utqiaġvik. So, I guess before we get started, do we have any -- well, I guess we'll do a roll call. Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll start with Leonard Barger.

MR. BARGER: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Wanda Kippi is absent. Peter Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

MS. CHAPA: Quincy Adams.

MR. ADAMS: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Martha Itta.

MS. ITTA: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Esther Hugo.

(No response)

Brower Frantz.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Here.

MS. CHAPA: And Jenysa Ahmaogak is out on maternity leave. So, Mr. Chair, we have 5 council members present. We do have quorum.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so I guess before we get into anything else, is this a good time to go into the public and tribal comments before we get into some action items? Or meeting announcements? Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Just a few reminders for new members -- or new members of the public that are

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1 attending today's meeting. For those attending in
2 person, please sign in to the meeting. You have a copy
3 of the agenda on page one of the meeting materials, and
4 you can find that on that table by the door. For those
5 joining us online or over the phone, you can find the
6 agenda at doi.gov/subsistence. And under the Regional
7 Advisory Council tab choose North Slope. And then the
8 Meeting Materials tile. I've also shared a copy of the
9 agenda for today via the Teams' chat for reference. There
10 will be an opportunity for the public to comment on
11 agenda items as well as time for the public to make
12 comments on non-agenda items. That should be coming up
13 soon in our agenda. And also, a reminder for those that
14 would like to address the Council during the meeting,
15 please fill out one of these blue sheets that are also
16 at the sign-in table. For those online, we ask that you
17 please raise your hand if you're using Microsoft Teams
18 to place you in the queue. And for those that are calling
19 in, you will need to press star five. That will let me
20 know that you're interested in talking to the Council.
21 For those online and on the phone as well, your lines
22 are going to be automatically muted, so you will have
23 to unmute yourself to speak. That means that you're --
24 if you're on the phone, you'll have to press star six
25 to unmute yourself. And those joining by Teams, you just
26 have to use the mute and unmute button. Please state
27 your name for the record before making a comment or
28 presenting a topic, because this helps us with our record
29 keeping and that is it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTS: Thank you, Gisela,
32 and it looks like I skipped over something. So,
33 introductions for new meeting participants online. Is
34 there anybody that is called in that wasn't previously
35 called in to state your name or your association. Please,
36 press star six.

37
38 MR. YASKA: Good morning. George Yaska,
39 a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Native American
40 Liaison. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning.

43
44 MS. LEAVITT: Good morning. Lucy Leavitt,
45 North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning, Lucy.
48 And oh, that's wildlife. That's wildlife. Okay. That was
49 Lucy.

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1 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
2 Members of the Council. This is Kevin Foley with the
3 Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Biologist
4 calling it from Anchorage. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,
7 Kevin. All right. Hearing no more introductions, it
8 looks like everybody else might be the same here. But
9 all right, so item 11, Action Items or no, Public and
10 Tribal Comment on Non-agenda Items. So, this is
11 available for each morning. Is there anybody online or
12 on the floor that has a public or tribal comment on non-
13 agenda items.

14
15 (No response)

16
17 Hearing none. I guess we can move to our
18 Subsistence Report for our Council Members that just got
19 here today. Mr. Peter Williams, do you have your report
20 for Anaktuvuk Pass?

21
22 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Peter
23 Williams. Yeah, there's a few stragglers around now.
24 They're up alongside the airport where the wind don't
25 blow. And other than, you know, a pretty slow, so cold.
26 So, you know, depending on weather, too, so. And people
27 went to Chandler, but it was kind of too cold. So,
28 they're just checking around, see what's wrong, I guess.
29 And a few trappers left, so they ain't much to tell
30 about trapping. A few guys went out trapping, but it was
31 too cold. And I (indiscernible) too much in. There's
32 probably is you know, a few caribous here and there, but
33 he had to go a distance so that's kind of
34 (indiscernible). You know a lot of caribou been hanging
35 around Arctic Village and Venetia area, so. They haven't
36 come across a pipeline since -- it's been coming off and
37 on. So, you know, we're lucky we can get caribou here,
38 though. A positive part. And we have fewer problems, so.
39 You know, there was a lot of problems there and fuel
40 shortage and gas shortage. But other than that,
41 everything's safe and the flu is going around. So, we
42 gotta [sic] watch out for that one too. Good morning.
43 Not too much here due to cold. Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your
46 report. That's also consistent with what Esther had
47 mentioned about the fuel and gas shortage, and caribou
48 not crossing out over to the area. And you did mention
49 something about the trappers. So actually, I might pick
50 your brains on that a little bit. So, you say there's

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1 not too many trappers that are going out compared to
2 other years?

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, about 5 or 6
5 trappers before, now maybe 2. Be lucky JJ and Walter
6 Tulik Jr. been going out and other than that it ain't
7 much you know, there's -- all the good trappers left.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
10 Yeah.

11

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Know Walter pretty
15 good. He likes to walk everywhere. That guy likes to
16 walk all over the place.

17

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Even hunt caribou, then
19 walking home. I mean.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. All right.
22 Thank you for that. So that should be it for subsistence
23 reports. Item 11, Action Items. Looks like we've got
24 WSA26-02. Gisela, you wanna [sic] give us the info?

25

26 MS. CHAPA: Okay. I will actually defer
27 to Brent if he is ready.

28

29 (Talking)

30

31 I don't see him online yet.

32

33 DR. VICKERS: Good morning, members of
34 Council, everyone else. So, this is fresh off the press.
35 After you guys discussed and made recommendations on
36 WSA26-01 that request to reduce the harvest limits to
37 for caribou and one of which is a doe. And after you
38 submitted your own special request to close lands in
39 Southwest Unit 26A to non-federally qualified, the
40 Bering Land Bridge National Park and Preserve submitted
41 a new special request themselves, and it's been
42 validated. So, it's ready to go, and -- I should have
43 pulled it up. So, I have the words right here. So let
44 me read this. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve has
45 submitted a temporary special action requesting the
46 Board close federal public lands in Unit 22 to caribou
47 hunting by non-federally qualified users for the 2026-
48 2028 regulatory cycle. This will be considered WSA26-
49 02. Now, the reason why we're bringing it up for your
50 Council is because the Point Hope basically, has

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1 customary and traditional use determination in Unit 22,
2 and so residents of Point Hope are federally qualified
3 subsistence users for caribou in that unit. So, it --
4 because Point Hope is within your region, but has C&T
5 in that unit, you can make a recommendation if you so
6 choose to do so. There's really no other data or anything
7 I can share with you, since this is again fresh off the
8 press. And much like the other special actions, there
9 will be a public hearing. And now, do we have the date
10 on that? I forget.

11
12 MS. CHAPA: We -- Mr. Chair, if I can.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. Go ahead,
15 Gisela.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: We have the public hearing
18 for WSA26-01.....

19
20 (Simultaneous speech)

21
22 DR. VICKERS: Yeah.

23
24 MS. CHAPA:scheduled for April
25 9th.....

26
27 DR. VICKERS: Okay.

28
29 MS. CHAPA:at 6 p.m.. I don't know
30 if.....

31
32 DR. VICKERS: Yeah.

33
34 MS. CHAPA:that is something that
35 can be combined into one public hearing or not.

36
37 DR. VICKERS: Yeah. Thank you. No
38 confirmation if that's the same. I know it would be
39 difficult for people to separate the two, so I think
40 that will be something we'll have to consider. But we
41 will let you know when they're -- what the final decision
42 on the date for a public hearing. There's going to be
43 opportunity for tribal and ANCSA corporation
44 consultations. If any tribes or ANCSA corporations would
45 like to have a request a consultation, please reach out
46 to our Native Liaison Orville Lind. You can find his
47 email address on our Office of Subsistence Management
48 website, or just walk over and ask Gisela or myself and
49 we can point you in the right direction. That's all I
50 have for you. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Quincy, you have a comment? Go ahead.

MR. ADAMS: Yeah. You mentioned Unit 22, and I was looking at the map. Point Hope is in Unit 23.

DR. VICKERS: Yeah. Excellent cartography. Looking at those maps, Council Member Adams. It's true, but I think because they are so relatively close to that unit and it's been demonstrated, recognized that residents will go down and have traditionally harvested in the lands of Unit 22, that they have customary and traditional use determination down there. And I don't know the extent that people residents have harvest there currently, but they do have a recognized C&T. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Looks like we've got -- Tom has a hand-up. Tom, you have the floor.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, Tom Plank Wildlife Biologist, OSM. And just to kind of add to that, for Unit 22A and for 22 -- basically all of Unit 22, they have Unit 23 down as a they have customary traditional use. And if you look at that map, you got you know, Kotzebue just across the Sound and Selawik you know, just not that far from 22. And the reason why it falls into your area as well is because, you know, my unit map, Point Hope, is Unit 23. And so, since 23 has the customary traditional use of Unit 22, technically that means Point Hope actually does, even if they never go down that far. So, I hope that kind of clarified it a little more for you. On why it was being included. It's just kind of a weird mapping.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No, it does help. Thank you, Tom. So, I guess more insight on that Quincy is -- just an analogy, really, so. Over the last five years or so, we had other areas such as the Dalton corridor and some of the fisheries changes over there, grayling and some other small fish. They were having changes to the regulation on that side, around Coldfoot area. I forgot the name of the rivers, but they had two different sets of regulations that didn't meet subsistence priority. And this is why I'm baffled about why we're not getting the same treatment here, is because they were making modifications over the last five years for subsistence priority in different areas, different

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1 units. But since we have traditionally traversed that
2 area and it's well documented historically that they
3 give us the opportunity to comment or give our opinions
4 in those areas because we traditionally cross paths with
5 each other, which is C&T, customary and traditional use.
6 So, we had the opportunity to do the same thing that
7 we're doing here is give insight for that area, because
8 these guys at Point Hope traditionally cross lands or
9 cross paths with the users of this area and going in to
10 go hunt, fish or trap or whatever. It's because they're
11 so close that way they -- we have enough interaction
12 with each other that they -- well, historically, that's
13 the key word historically that that they give us the
14 opportunity to comment or, you know, assist or just give
15 our say for that area because we do utilize it to some
16 degree, if that helps. All right. So, and this is -- is
17 this an action item? Oh, it is an action item. That's
18 the whole point of it. So maybe we should have our same
19 setup from yesterday. So, we're going to have to vote
20 on this just like we did WSA26-01. This one though, it
21 looks plain and clear cut and dry. Maybe I'll ask Leonard
22 because he's from the area for customary and traditional
23 use. What you would like to do with this?

24
25 MR. BARGER: Yeah. It's only me. But, you
26 know, our community, we do cross paths, you know, in a
27 traditional (indiscernible). Listen to elders that
28 passed on and they talk about, you know, their family.
29 And we work, you know, they work together back then, a
30 long time ago. And you talk about traditional, it is
31 traditional use and you guys are all right. But -- and
32 I would like to go forward on, you know, my opinion, I
33 would like to go forward in -- on this action, so.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sorry, you wanted to
36 do up with it?

37
38 MR. BARGER: Whatever. You know, take
39 action on what you're going to.....

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, on this
42 WP -- WSA26-02 closure of federal public lands and Unit
43 22.

44
45 MR. BARGER: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So would you like
48 to support that or.....

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1 MR. BARGER: Yeah, I would like to
2 support. Yeah.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. And the form
5 of a motion. No. You have to make the motion.

6
7 MR. BARGER: I'd like to make a motion.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: To...?

10
11 MR. BARGER: To support the, you know,
12 close the federal.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so
15 there's a motion on the floor to support. Maybe.....

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ:so, to support
20 WSA 26-02, closure of federal public lands in Unit 22
21 to caribou hunting by non-federally qualified users for
22 the 2026-2028 Regulatory Cycle by Leonard Barger. So,
23 is that correct? You'd like to make a motion to support
24 that?

25
26 MR. BARGER: Yes, sir.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There's a motion on
29 the floor. Seconded by Peter Williams. Discussion.
30 Discussion beings that the C&T has been documented and
31 utilized by the Point Hope section, but it sounds like
32 we want to follow through and let them go forth with
33 what they are proposing for their unit. So that is, I
34 guess, the determination for the support for closer --
35 closure of federal public lands Unit 22. Any other
36 discussion on the matter?

37
38 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
41 called for. all those in favor of supporting WSA26-02
42 closure of federal public lands in Unit 22, say aye.

43
44 IN UNSION: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed say
47 nay.

48
49 (No response)

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none.
2 WSA26-02, closure of federal public lands has passed
3 through the Regional Advisory Council. Thank you. All
4 right. Item 12, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
5 Update. Or is this what we did yesterday?
6

7 (Talking)
8

9 Oh, it's a different one okay. Anna
10 Senecal. You have the floor.
11

12 MS. SENEAL: Thank you so much, Mr.
13 Chair. Mr. Chair, members of the Council. My name is
14 Anna, Anna Senecal. I'm a fish biologist with OSM, and
15 I'm here to share with you about our two funding sources.
16 So, the first one in -- programs. The first one is the
17 -- let me scroll down here. Okay. The Fisheries Resource
18 Monitoring Program, and the second one I will be sharing
19 with you is our Partners Program. So, the monitoring
20 program, the mission is to identify and provide
21 information needed to sustain federal subsistence
22 fisheries. So, this is really the research branch of
23 what we do. That's what this funding is for. It supports
24 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska
25 Native and rural organizations and promotes
26 collaboration among federal, state, Alaska Native and
27 local organizations. So, we're currently in the final
28 phase of the 2026 monitoring plan funding cycle. The
29 Board met in early February and approved the monitoring
30 program funding plan. Given that we don't currently have
31 a budget, what they approved was the process by which
32 we finalized that plan. So, there's a series of projects
33 that were selected that were ranked. And once we have
34 final budget numbers, we'll be able to move forward with
35 those -- with the final plan. So, with this cycle coming
36 to an end what the next action item is an opportunity
37 for the Council to provide input on the next series, the
38 next call for proposals and that's through the priority
39 information needs that you're very familiar with. So,
40 it's an important component of the monitoring program.
41 They outline the knowledge gaps and local concerns
42 related to subsistence fisheries and guide what projects
43 are submitted for consideration. So, these PINs come
44 from you. They come from the communities. They come from
45 your knowledge, your expertise and the people that apply
46 for this funding source to conduct research have to speak
47 to those PINs. So it controls the scope, the type of
48 projects that you see in the future. So, we're asking
49 for volunteers from the Council and any other Councils
50 in this region to meet by telephone or virtually this

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1 summer to identify knowledge gaps and information needed
2 for the management of subsistence fisheries, and also
3 to go through the existing PINs and, you know, evaluate
4 whether or not they're still relevant. So, this isn't
5 an action item, but I am looking for volunteers or a
6 volunteer, volunteers that would like to help develop,
7 refine these priority information needs for the next
8 cycle. So, I can take questions now and accept volunteers
9 at this time.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Any
12 questions or comments from the Council or any active
13 members that would like to volunteer? I would like to
14 ask Todd who he recommends for this particular item. As
15 volunteers, maybe, or who would be a good fit for this
16 type of information passing since you deal with the fish
17 section for the North Slope. Sure. That would be helpful.
18 And I guess maybe I don't have all the dialogue here,
19 but it sounds interesting. And if there's maybe funding
20 sources involved, that might be a good developmental
21 thing for maybe furthering fish mold stuff or anything
22 of the sort. I'm kind of interested in it though. So
23 maybe put me down as a volunteer to at least have a
24 discussion this summer on this so I can get some more
25 information. Just to keep the communication flow going
26 for this.

27
28 MS. SENEAL: Anna Senecal for the
29 record, Mr. Chair, that sounds fantastic. I will put you
30 down and having Borough Wildlife and Fisheries support
31 for you, you would be the one interfacing as representing
32 the Council, interfacing with this process. But having
33 information from the community, experts in the community
34 sounds like a fantastic way forward. And examination of
35 parasites, disease, mold and fish is right up the alley
36 for this funding source.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds great.

39
40 MS. SENEAL: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. Thank you. Any
43 other comments or questions from the Council on the
44 presentation?

45
46 (No response)

47
48 No. No, I think we have a good way
49 forward to at least gain some more knowledge on this.
50 Thank you.

1

2

3 MS. SENEAL: You're very welcome. So, I
4 will continue on with the Partners Program update again,
5 I'm Anna Senecal, for the record. Mr. Chair, Members of
6 the Council. Still a fisheries biologist. So, our
7 Partners Program is this is this sister program. And so,
8 while the one really looks at the research needed to
9 close these gaps to support federal subsistence
10 fisheries, this other one is capacity building. So, it
11 funds positions, it funds programs, it funds social
12 scientists, research positions, culture camps. So that
13 is the emphasis of this funding source. So, it's a
14 competitive grant for Alaska Native and rural non-profit
15 organizations, and the intent is to strengthen Alaska
16 Native and rural involvement in federal subsistence
17 management by providing funds to organizations so they
18 can hire folks, a professional biologist, a social
19 scientist, or educator. The grants also provide funds
20 for science and culture camps and paid student
21 internships. So, we're looking at recruitment, retention
22 and, you know, melding the traditional and the western
23 science, you know, all of the good things.

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MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

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MS. ITTA: Yes, I do have a question. Are you talking about funding and education? Is this something that we can bring forth to our school district to get our school children involved, like in the science portion? That's something we've been talking about in Nuiqsut and that for many, many years, is getting our young children, our young adults because they're now taking, you know, learning how to do the fishing and hunting for us. And I think that's something that would be really good going through the school district. I don't know what that will take. If I have to volunteer for my village for something to -- like this to happen there. It would be really good for Nuiqsut. And in my report, I forgot to mention the lower number of sick fish that were getting -- it really declined. In the past, how many -- maybe like three years, they're not getting as many sick fish as before, and we don't know why. Why that is. But they still do get some sick fish. They just, you know, take pictures of them and just throw them. So, they're -- I don't think they turn them in anymore. It's -- I haven't heard of anybody turning in any sick fish and maybe 2 or 3 years maybe. But it has declined. And we've been trying to get our kids involved in, you know, anything science or anything about the land and waters. So, you know, educating them because we're getting old, you know, and they're starting to step up and hunt for us. So, you know, education. I was -- just education is really important for, you know, anything especially for their safety because of the dangers of subsistence hunting. Thank you.

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MS. SENEAL: Council Member Itta, I think that's a wonderful point. It's a theme. I've been sitting in the back of the room listening and learning, and there's a through line focusing in on education, communication, making sure the information is doled out in the right way to the right parties, and finding these opportunities. I'd be happy to chat with you further. There are technical aspects of any federal program to thread, but the nature of the work, the spirit of the work you talk about is in line with this funding source. You just have to make sure that the appropriate party is applying, that they're eligible to be an Alaskan Native or rural non-profit organization, that the scope of the work is competitive. And these are all things that we can work together on, if you'd like to explore it further.

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1 MS. ITTA: My other question is, like
2 history documentation before and after. Is there any
3 documentation over the years like for our kids, to --
4 our kids to use in the future, like, oh, this is how
5 they fished and hunted before, and this is what it is
6 now. We've been trying to get something together in, you
7 know, in that matter, like document just for Nuiqsut
8 that where our kids are -- kids who are learning about
9 our way of life, can look back on how it was then, how
10 we did things and how we do it now. Thank you.

11
12 MS. SENEAL: I will have to phone a
13 friend on subject matter. Yeah. On the eligibility of
14 something such as that.

15
16 DR. VOORHEES: Hi, this is Hannah
17 Voorhees. I'm an Anthropologist with OSM. Could you
18 repeat that question one more time?

19
20 MS. ITTA: Yes. I was asking about
21 documentation our children can look at now that they're
22 stepping up to hunt and subsist for us. They're learning
23 our way of life and something for them to go by. Like
24 the history of our hunting. The differences from then
25 and now that they can look at. You know, I can't stress
26 enough education for our hunters because they're taking
27 over now. And, you know, so much is changing and we
28 don't have very much documentation to go by. And it's
29 always like in different departments that you have to
30 piece together, you know, and having something concrete
31 for our children to look back, just a document or
32 whatever information that they could look back and, you
33 know, our fishing history, our subsistence history.
34 Thank you.

35
36 DR. VOORHEES: Thanks for explaining that
37 to me a little bit more. And you'll have to forgive me
38 because I'm jumping between meetings a little bit, but
39 I would say that that is something that can definitely
40 be supported through a social scientist with the tribe,
41 through the Partner's Program, but also with the FRMP,
42 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. There's, you
43 know, a whole component of that program that focuses on
44 traditional ecological knowledge. And that would
45 definitely be the type of project that would be a
46 candidate for the FRMP. When those PINs are developed,
47 I would include that. Thank you.

48
49 MS. ITTA: Thank you. I just wanted to
50 share, you know, the importance of getting something

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1 together like this for each village, for their children
2 to use. Because of the dangers of our way of life.
3 Something that they can go by because we're not always
4 going to be there for them. You know, they're going to
5 be out there by themselves. There's some that are hunt
6 by themselves. And it very really worries us parents.
7 And, you know, we do the best that we can to educate
8 them, but we're not always going to be here, you know
9 and -- sorry, my mind just went blank. I was just
10 thinking about their safety and protecting, just pretty
11 much protecting our way of life, trying to get them in
12 those positions of, you know, doing the work. There's a
13 lot of, you know, that would help alleviate a lot of the
14 issues and address a lot of the issues that we voiced
15 out because they know and understand our land and our
16 way of life and what's important to us. That was kind
17 of what I was trying to get at is you know, just the
18 hardships that we have and educating them and for them
19 to take over. It's, you know, it's really complicated
20 to talk about and really frustrating. We've been pushing
21 for local people to be in these positions, you know,
22 because trust is a big issue. There's so much -- we talk
23 about conflict, I mean, a lot and, you know, mistrust
24 because we're not being heard. And what I'm trying to
25 get at is trying to fix that gap in our relationship
26 between any agencies and our village when it comes to
27 our way of life and education. And, you know, it's all
28 connected. So, you know, I can't stress enough how much
29 it would mean to our village if we can get them involved
30 to do the work and opposed to having outsiders do the
31 work for us. That would bring back a lot of trust and
32 that would, you know, give a lot of relief to our
33 community that, okay, our people are out there doing
34 this work. You know, they know what they're doing. No,
35 no offense to you guys, scientists and whoever,
36 whoever's doing the work, but it would just make more
37 sense to have locals in those positions that better
38 understand our way of life and our land and our waters,
39 and especially getting our children, involved keeping
40 them busy and, you know, staying out of trouble. I think
41 that would really be really helpful. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds like a good
44 opportunity for another volunteer there, Martha. Go
45 ahead, Brent.

46

47 DR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Frantz. I
48 walked all the way up here from the back row, so I might
49 as well speak. Council Member Itta, you said a lot, a
50 lot and a lot. And you're -- I think what you're saying,

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1 like, really is speaking right to what we're trying to
2 do through these programs that we're talking about right
3 now. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. So,
4 let's just talk on that right now. Well, first off, what
5 your idea of is documenting historical use, how, methods
6 used, where historically community members have fished,
7 how they process fish, all these types of things. That
8 is like getting right at the heart of what we put in the
9 category called TEK, traditional -- I know that's used
10 a lot, traditional ecological knowledge, but essentially
11 that would be researchers coming to the communities,
12 speaking with elders, speaking with people who have been
13 doing this and say, hey, teach us, tell us. Take us out.
14 Show us what you used to do. Show us where. Look at
15 these maps. Look at all this and document all this. And
16 then, as you said, maybe in looking at how people are
17 doing today, maybe doing something comparatively. But
18 that kind of idea of documenting what traditionally
19 people have done is what we, again, for the Fisheries
20 Resource Monitoring Program really gets at the heart of
21 what we're trying to achieve through TEK studies. And
22 what those researchers -- I mean, so agency wise, yeah,
23 there's several a federal agencies, I know BLM has
24 anthropologists that work in the region. ADF&G Division
25 of Subsistence definitely has anthropologists in the
26 region. And if they hear what you're saying, and
27 especially during the PIN development, I'll throw out a
28 plug for what your Chair just recommended that that will
29 lead those anthropologists to see it and be like, oh,
30 great, let's write up a research project and put in a
31 proposal and see if we can get it funded.

32
33 Then that speaks to the next thing that
34 you're saying, local capacity building. That's one of
35 the five criteria that we look at for projects. Is this
36 -- it's one thing for agency staff to come in and do a
37 project and get a lot of information from the community
38 and then go back and write a report. But what we want
39 is to show that their building capacity. Are they --
40 essentially are they going to leave the communities in
41 through this work with the capacity to maybe do this
42 study on their own in the future, right. Are they hiring
43 people? They're working with the community? Like there's
44 a lot of other -- a lot of the projects we've funded
45 repeatedly through years have taken working with some
46 of the Native organizations and through the years have
47 put those Native organizations at the seat of running
48 the projects themselves. But that took some work. And
49 with through something like the Partners Program, that
50 is where we through proposals could potentially fund

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1 some staff even, through Native organizations that can
2 come in and or be hired locally or to be able to actually
3 do that work. Because a lot of Native organizations and
4 villages don't even have that funding capacity to fund
5 the fisheries, or a educator or a social scientist
6 internally to do the work. And so, I just want to mention
7 that -- take what you are saying and what I'm hearing
8 and saying this is -- these are the things what we are
9 trying to do through the project. And I think it's a
10 great idea, like the Chair mentioned, if you if you join
11 this volunteer panel and I just want everyone kind of
12 to know, like, that is what we're doing through these
13 programs. That's all. Thank you.

14

15 MS. ITTA: Thank you. My mind just
16 slipped again. I wanted to -- oh, yeah. The funding
17 you're talking about, funding. Does it have to be --
18 like if we were to partner with you guys, does it have
19 to, like, go through our tribal or city or corporation?
20 Because, you know, I work under the North Slope Borough
21 under (indiscernible) in my department on the cultural
22 side for our village and we're, you know, trying to
23 working on implementing programs, what we want to see
24 in our village. And I think, you know, on the fishing
25 side, we're trying to start, you know, taking our kids
26 to go learn how to set nets, how to make hooks and stuff.
27 And funding is always a problem. We're limited on
28 funding. We're limited on supplies. You know, we don't
29 have snow machines to -- in our department to do such
30 things. Is that something that you guys can help with?
31 I mean, like.....

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: They did mention
34 that camps and stuff were kind of in line with...

35

36 (Simultaneous speech)

37

38 MS. ITTA: Yeah, that's what I, that's
39 what I wanted to clarify.....

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. They already
42 mentioned that earlier. So, they would be -- if the
43 funding source -- so, it sounds like you just have to
44 connect the dots. You have a need. They have something
45 they want to provide. We just need a conductor at this
46 point.

47

48 MS. ITTA: Yeah. So that was my question.
49 Does it have.....

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is it going to be
2 through the Borough? So that I think what, what we need
3 to do is establish a volunteer from the community and
4 they're -- like they said they're going to have another
5 input or summary or discussion in the summer. So,
6 whoever's going to be volunteering for that will collect
7 all that information at this next meeting here. And you
8 know, at that point you can hash out, is it going to be
9 through the Borough, is it going to be through your
10 city? Is it going to be through your tribal? And all you
11 have to do, though, is put your name in the hat.

12

13 MS. ITTA: Well, I guess you can put me
14 down as a volunteer.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. No,
17 that's really good though. Having camps and things of
18 that nature is definitely great for the communities up
19 here. They have multiple camps that happen. And they do
20 catch a lot of fish up at the camps here. All right.
21 Looks like we have no item 13. Item 14, Other Business.
22 So, Gisela, do you want to go through the Council
23 Correspondence Update?

24

25 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
26 this is just an update of all the Council correspondence
27 that has gone out since our fall meeting. And those
28 materials begin at page -- on page 32 of your meeting
29 booklets. And the first item to give the Council an
30 update on is the Council's comment on the Federal
31 Subsistence Management Program Review. If you recall,
32 at our fall meeting, we had a -- or the Council had a
33 presentation about a Secretarial Review that is -- that
34 was going to be conducted at the time. It wasn't open,
35 that was going to be conducted on the Federal Subsistence
36 Management Program. And then the Council established the
37 working group to develop your comments. So, you can see
38 on page 32, these are the comments that were forwarded
39 to the Federal Subsistence Board and that will be
40 presented to the Departments of the Interior and
41 Agriculture. I also wanted to point out that this comment
42 period has been extended. It was originally set to expire
43 by February 13th, but it's been extended through March
44 30th. And also, if you recall at the last meeting, I
45 believe the Council felt kind of rushed and pressured
46 to develop comments. So, you have an opportunity to
47 potentially submit additional comments. So, this will
48 be like a separate letter that will be sent to the Board.
49 And if the Council would like to submit additional
50 comments, this would technically be considered an action

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1 item. So, it's up to you to make that decision. Also,
2 at the back of your packet, you have a copy of not all
3 of the other Council comments, but most of the other
4 Council's comments on this review, if you want to take
5 maybe like some time to review it, it's up to you. And
6 just wanted to make you aware of that.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And we're just
9 specific to the FSMP review right now, right? Okay. All
10 right. So, what is the wish of the Council on the on the
11 reviews here? Do we want to change any language in it?
12 Do you want to keep it the same, status quo and move
13 forward? Or what is the wish of the Council? Is there
14 any other discussions we had that may be wanted -- or
15 to be inputted into this, or do we like how it's worded
16 as it sits? Or modify it? Can we not input?

17
18 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. So, this letter was
19 already finalized and signed. So, this is just for your
20 reference. So, if there's any additional comments, that
21 would be a separate letter that would be sent to the
22 Board. And the other thing I wanted to mention, if it's
23 helpful to the Council, is that in this review, the
24 Secretaries requested feedback on specific items. So,
25 one of the things that they were considering or requested
26 feedback on was the move of the Office of Subsistence
27 Management to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for
28 policy, Management and Budget. So that was just like an
29 administrative move of the organization, perhaps not
30 necessarily something that it was felt on the ground.
31 But that was one of the things they requested feedback
32 on. The second one was the criteria for Regional Advisory
33 Council membership. They also requested input on
34 membership of the Federal Subsistence Board. Federal
35 regulations and state regulations for duplication and
36 inconsistency, and regulations governing special
37 actions. That's something that we experienced during
38 this meeting. The role of the state and the Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game in the Federal Subsistence
40 Management program. Board procedures and non-rural
41 determinations. And I believe those were like the major
42 topics. But then they also welcomed additional comments.
43 And yeah. As a reminder, the Council did have additional
44 comments to forward to the Board.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. I remember a
47 lot of the discussion on the move, and I don't think we
48 really noticed anything much as far as the Council was
49 concerned here, last meeting. So, unless anything popped
50 up what is the wish of the Council? I remember we had a

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1 discussion, but I don't have any notes on it about -- I
2 think it was the Federal Subsistence Board to be
3 specific, but. And the addition of another member and
4 the criteria for it. But I don't remember the exact
5 details. Other than that, I don't think I had anything
6 else. Did any of you?

7

8 MR. ADAMS: Move to approve the draft as
9 it's written.

10

11 MS. CHAPA: And as a reminder, it's not
12 an action item, it's just an update. And yeah, it was
13 just the opportunity to provide additional comments that
14 would require action.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Means
17 that I don't think anybody has any additional changes
18 to it or comments or anything else. We don't need to act
19 on it. Item 2.

20

21 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
22 Chapa for the record. The second correspondence update,
23 it is a letter sent to the BLM in-season manager
24 regarding muskox and permits in Unit 26A. That can be
25 found on page 37 of your meeting materials and again,
26 this is not an action item. So, on page 37 you can see
27 a copy of this letter that was sent to the Arctic
28 District Office Manager requesting an increase of
29 federal subsistence permits issued for muskoxen on Unit
30 26A and a revision to the reporting requirements to
31 ensure the harvest quota is not exceeded. And also, if
32 you recall, during our fall meeting, the topic of
33 muskoxen was a very of interest to the Council. And I
34 believe that a member of the public commented on the
35 limited number of permits available and not really a
36 whole lot of harvest happening. And, at that point we
37 had missed the wildlife regulatory cycle to submit
38 proposals. So, as an alternative, the Council decided
39 to reach out to the federal in-season manager to see if
40 they could increase the number of permits to be issued
41 to ensure that there is more harvest on muskox.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that
44 info. And just to be or just for the general discussion,
45 this may have been alleviated with the discussion that
46 Carmen had with us yesterday, that they're putting more
47 numbers out already. And they're talking with -- she
48 couldn't -- I guess she can't formally go for the federal
49 side, but it sounded like they were going to follow
50 suit. So, I -- this may be a moot point. And if you want

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1 to pass this up because they're already actively working
2 with input that we had given them. Do we want to write
3 a letter still, or do we think our communications with
4 the state and federal side is adequate for what's
5 happening? Gisela.

6
7 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, and if I can just share
8 that this letter has already been sent out. But yes,
9 Carmen absolutely brought up yesterday that she has been
10 in communication with the BLM as well to also potentially
11 increase the number of permits on the federal side. But
12 unfortunately, she couldn't be here today, and she is
13 available to call in. So, if the Council wants a little
14 bit more information I can see if she can call in to
15 further explain.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. No, I think
18 that's -- I think we got a pretty good explanation for
19 it yesterday. If we don't have any additional comments
20 or anything. Do you guys have anything for the Council?
21 Go ahead, Gisela. Lucy.

22
23 MS. LEAVITT: Hi. Good morning. Lucy.
24 Leavitt on the line. So, would it be up to BLM to
25 determine the number of permits they issue?

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: On the federal side,
28 yes. I believe.

29
30 MS. LEAVITT: Okay.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. But they are
33 actively as far as what Carmen had mentioned, the state
34 has already put in for a couple more permits to be given
35 out. And sounds like the federal side is doing the same
36 for the federal portion of the muskox. But the letter
37 we sent out is to request more numbers because the number
38 of harvest isn't matching the number of harvest -- or
39 the permits that they gave out. So, we're asking them
40 to put more. And it sounds like they're taking the advice
41 that we're giving them to some extent. We would like
42 more but I mean, more than they're offering, but they're
43 taking a step in the right direction. So, they are adding
44 more. All right. Any other comments?

45
46 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, if I may.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

49
50

1 MR. ADAMS: I think increasing the number
2 of the muskox would really help because really noticing
3 -- yeah, we can get more muskox permits, so we can try
4 to increase the take of muskox. It'll -- I believe it'll
5 help us in the long run on trying to get more tuttu,
6 because after seeing what the tuttu after what the
7 caribou would do from muskox how they run like running
8 for their lives. It'll give us a little bit higher chance
9 to try to catch more tuttu, to feed our families as well
10 throughout the winter.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for those
13 comments and muskox are delicious. So, the more
14 opportunity they give us, you know, the greater variety
15 of nutritional sources we have for our people. Now, I
16 like that. All right. Any other comments on this letter?
17 It sounds like we're just going to leave it as is. So,
18 anything else is just basic discussion on this. If we're
19 not adding to it. We're good to move on? All right.
20 Let's see, 1.4b, Land status on FRMP regulatory maps.
21 Gisela.

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
24 is a request made by the Eastern Interior Regional
25 Advisory Council that was sent over to the -- oh. Got
26 it. Thank you. It was a request -- oh, sorry. Okay, let
27 me restart. Okay. So, this was a request by the Eastern
28 Interior -- sorry, Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
29 Council to the Federal Subsistence Board through their
30 annual report. They wanted to incorporate Native
31 corporation lands and allotments to the maps that are
32 used in federal regulation books to reduce trespass
33 issues. And at the moment, if we can get to zoom in
34 enough to that map, you will see that the maps only
35 reference federal land ownership. Okay. Okay. Give me a
36 minute.

37
38 (Talking)

39
40 Okay, well, so you can see that these
41 maps basically just have the federal land ownership and
42 then a lot of blank space in between. Okay. Through the
43 report, the Council stated that trespassing primarily
44 by hunters is a significant issue in the region, and
45 they are addressing that through increased outreach and
46 hunter ethics initiatives. The Council also stated that
47 these efforts will not be successful if the public does
48 not have access to materials that reference land status
49 on regulatory maps that is outside of federal land
50 ownership and therefore requested the Board to display

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1 corporation lands and Native allotments on these maps.
2 In their Board's reply to the Eastern Interior Council,
3 the Board requested feedback from other Councils about
4 whether this is something you would like to see on a
5 regulatory book map in your region, and the Board and
6 the Eastern Interior Council would greatly appreciate a
7 brief discussion with your thoughts about the request.
8 And this is not an action item, just discussion on the
9 record would suffice for this purpose.

10
11 And if I may also share. Okay, so this
12 is kind of like what their map looks like. Right now,
13 this is for Eastern Interior. Goodness gracious. Okay.
14 Now I have a mockup of a -- now you can also see in the
15 back of your booklet. You also have the map that is used
16 on our regulatory maps for the North Slope region. And
17 you can also see that we have a lot of white space in
18 between federal lands. Now, this is a mockup of
19 potentially what these maps could look like. You see
20 that around Anaktuvuk Pass you have different land
21 status displayed on the map, and I believe the brown is
22 Native land. The light blue is State. You also have in
23 some sections, I believe there's like checkered
24 patterns. So, it definitely has a lot more detail. And
25 I guess the question to the Council is, do you consider
26 this to be a beneficial change? Yeah. Any discussion on
27 the issue is welcome.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I think this was
30 almost verbatim discussed yesterday with a different
31 request I had for the discussion between the state and
32 federal, with a little more detail pertaining to maps.
33 So essentially, we answered this question yesterday.
34 Yes, this would be very beneficial for us. So just
35 knowing the background and why it's like that, between
36 the state, the federal the local sides and how it all
37 came to be with the addition of just having the
38 information in front of us. There are multiple different
39 styles of maps that we have, and it's pretty confusing
40 because some of them don't pertain or have the details
41 that we need, which are being put into our documents
42 here. When in reality, this is what we needed yesterday.
43 Yeah. Yep. So, yes. And we did request it yesterday. So,
44 I think having this is essentially duplicate efforts or
45 maybe adding a little more to the request. So yes, I
46 think this would be very beneficial. Nicole.

47
48 MS. WOJCIECHOWSKI: Thank you, Chair.
49 Have has the Office of Subsistence Management consulted
50 with the Alaska Native landowners on this to see what

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1 their initial thoughts are with including this in their
2 in public land mapping? That's just a question or a
3 thought and recommendation maybe to do so. And then I
4 know this is -- because we're talking about maps. This
5 is a side question, related. But we just saw the news
6 on the Dalton Highway Corridor with the Department of
7 the Interior, does that affect federal to state land
8 status for game management? So those are my two
9 questions. Thank you.

10

11 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

14

15 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Thank you for that
16 comment, Nicole. I don't believe that we've gotten to
17 that step yet regarding these maps of whether we've
18 solicited input on Native land and Native allotment into
19 these publications. So, this is not a public map as of
20 yet. It's just used as a mockup for the Council and the
21 public to see what this map could potentially look like.
22 And I think it's an important point to also bring to the
23 Board and to OSM to consider before moving forward with
24 this. On your second question, I been out of the news.
25 So, I am not super familiar on what came out yesterday.
26 I.....

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Todd. Mr.
29 Sformo.

30

31 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope
32 Borough. I think that second question you asked, I think
33 it does affect subsistence. And they mentioned in an
34 earlier article, not yesterday, but about a week before
35 that the affected lands like the Dalton Utility Corridor
36 would not -- would no longer be subjected to the Alaska
37 National Interest Land Conservation Act for federal
38 rural subsistence priority. So, if it changes, that part
39 of the corridor would no longer have a federal
40 subsistence priority claim.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I did see that
43 yesterday. That was on the news. Which is concerning for
44 -- well, that's -- I don't think that's in our unit but
45 it's a little further south than, than where we are. But
46 if that were, you know, if that were to go through and
47 it was consistent with any other road building like
48 something that may happen here, would be very concerning
49 for us. So, I feel like maybe we should be watching
50 this.

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MS. CHAPA: And if I can just check, we're just going to do an audio check. I got a message that they lost audio online. Can you hear us, okay? This is a sound check.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. LA VINE: Yes. Hello, Gisela. Yep. We lost you, or at least I lost you. For a little bit through the last person speaking about the road. And then we could hear the Chair again. So, Thank you. It's all it -- it sounds good to me. Bye.

MS. CHAPA: Thanks, Robbin.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Any other discussion on the maps portion?

MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Land status on FSMP regulatory maps? Go ahead, Leonard.

MR. BARGER: Yeah. If you could go back to your map. You know, I mean, since we're talking map, who do we see to add, you know, in the area of Point Hope. Since we're with North Slope and because we're not being -- because, you know, Northwest Arctic RAC is -- because we're in the Unit 22E. See if we could add, you know, in our area Point Hope in that situation.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you mean adding, like, the NSB boundary?

MR. BARGER: Yeah, the boundaries and stuff. And, you know, because like I said, we don't have a representation -- representative, you know, for Point Hope in the Northwest RAC because I was happy to be there their last meeting. And I brought up issues and stuff, and you know. You know, where I'm getting at is that, you know, so we could be concluded with the boundaries since we're all with North Slope.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think that's a good idea. I didn't even look in that section. And, yeah, Point Hope is not included. And you're definitely part of our RAC here and our North Slope. So yeah, I would make that change to include Point Hope for our

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1 unit or units. Lucy, you have your hand up. Lucy, did
2 you have your hand raised online?

3

4 (No response)

5

6 Okay. We'll move forward. But if you
7 have your hand raised. You have -- we'll give you an
8 opportunity. All right, so yes, we'll make the addition.
9 I think that's great. You're part of our North Slope
10 area, so 26A is not the only section of the North Slope.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Okay, noted.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we'll add 23.
15 And what was it called? 23, above the.....

16

17 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. And Mr. Chair, if I
18 may, I think this is -- again because it was just drafted
19 to give the Council an idea of what this map would look
20 like. It may have just been an oversight not to include
21 Point Hope, but definitely our region includes a section
22 of 23 that includes Point Hope, and I'll make a note of
23 that.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So just kind of
26 sidebar, but what can we do to make their unit of Point
27 Hope easier in the system here? Because there's no real
28 solid clarification on like, normally there'd be like a
29 23A, B or C or whatever. And this one is Unit 23, that
30 portion, which includes the all drainages north and west
31 of -- and including the (In Native) River.

32

33 MS. CHAPA: I think that's a question for
34 our LT, but I also wanted to share what was posted on
35 the chat that this is a region map that would be -- it's
36 a unit map. So, if we go into the blue booklets, the
37 regulatory maps there organized by unit. So, on Unit 26,
38 you would see this map and then to your point.....

39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think our point
41 would be, is that if it was directed to our North Slope
42 RAC and this was to be provided that Point Hope be
43 included in that as a like a whole, instead of having
44 to open two different -- yeah, two different units that
45 they are inclusive. They're included. But yeah, also,
46 if we could find a way to simplify the naming of the
47 unit, which is sidebar to this, but I think that's
48 something we should be looking at. So, it's not so
49 technical.

50

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1 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

4

5 MS. CHAPA: I think the best I can do for
6 the Council right now is I am going to make note of it,
7 and I am going to find an answer for the Council and
8 bring it up at the next Council meeting.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Need that
11 by 5:00. Just kidding. Okay. Any other maps, comments
12 or concerns? I think so, they did say it's available.
13 It's just not within this same section. All right.
14 Did you have anything, Brent?

15

16 DR. VICKERS: Well, I've got a couple
17 things. Brent Vickers, OSM. First, yeah, that unit --
18 I'll see if there's something we can do with that, but
19 I'll say it doesn't -- that you know that south --
20 northwest unit of or portion of you know, Unit 23
21 northwest of the (In Native) River drainage and
22 including -- I think what the problem is that it doesn't
23 meet neatly with a -- or with a subunit, like, I don't
24 think there is a -- the state has a clear like this is
25 Unit 23A for that particular region. And because we
26 historically have in -- the federal side has included
27 Point Hope as part of the North Slope, we can't -- it's
28 not hard to make, like a clean boundary that fits with
29 the state system. We just did the best we can with
30 drawing a line there that seems to roughly correspond
31 with that northwest of the (In Native) River. I think
32 if there was a better alignment with how -- we'd like
33 to try to align our maps as best as possible with the
34 state system, because that would makes it easier, Unit
35 23, Unit 26 but the Point Hope area has no clear way on
36 the state side of showing that other than using that
37 description that they have. I don't foresee us being
38 able to really, like, do something better for you, but
39 I'll see.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. Yeah.
42 It's just.....

43

44 (Simultaneous speech)

45

46 DR. VICKERS: It just sounded terrible
47 out of my mouth. But yeah, I think you grasp my meaning
48 somehow. Thank you. And there was another thing. We're
49 going to -- I'm sorry Gisela, you said maybe to bring
50 this up a little bit later, but you kind of are segwaying

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1 [sic] into a discussion that I had with Carmen Daggett
2 yesterday. She came up to me and unfortunately, she can't
3 be here today because she's got childcare, sick kid at
4 home and -- but she had such a great idea. And it's
5 speaking to what you were just talking about and trying
6 to develop -- for OSM to work with, essentially a couple
7 of us in the OSM to work with Carmen and maybe a few
8 others on the state side and try to give you a short
9 presentation on what you want to see, what you would
10 like. You have this great idea that you're just talking
11 about with the maps. Like we want to see this map, how
12 things came to be, trying to cover some of the issues
13 that you're having, particularly between the state and
14 the federal side. You've spoken a little bit about it
15 now, but I would like to be able to have a better picture
16 of what we could actually try to deliver to you in the
17 fall, in the form of some sort of presentation. I think
18 it would be a great opportunity not only for you, but
19 for us to kind of work together and give you something
20 that you can -- another level of that would be able to
21 somehow bring it home to your communities and kind of
22 share there and say, hey, this is what we learned and
23 about land status in this area. If people have more
24 ideas about what they would like to see in that short
25 presentation, that would help us to try to deliver
26 something like that.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That sounds great.
29 I think that is -- well, it's definitely something I did
30 request. But I guess to the best of my abilities. So,
31 what I was going for was why -- the majority of
32 everything that I -- at least where we are, we know it's
33 all federal with the exception of the Native land around
34 the -- all the villages. But why we're falling under
35 ADF&G management when 90% of where I'm going to be
36 hunting is under federal. But yet, if we go for walrus
37 or anything like that, we're going through the U.S. Fish
38 and Wildlife Services. So, they do have to some degree,
39 some overlap in areas. But what I was getting at was,
40 so we are hunting on federal land, but it's all to us.
41 We don't even look at it that way. It's all this is our
42 subsistence areas that we've been using for thousands
43 of years. So, it's all under -- like when I go moose
44 hunting and I'm going to the very bottom of the North
45 Slope, I'm still on federal lands on the NPRES lands, and
46 I'm still having to go over and go get an ADF&G state
47 moose tag, a moose permit. And I'm sitting there going,
48 well, why is -- who do -- so, if something were to happen
49 to where like a commercial operator was found out there
50 and they were -- we knew they were not supposed to be

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1 there, who are we calling? Are we calling the state? Are
2 we calling these guys in the back here? Are we calling
3 the troopers? Who -- you know who's dealing with it? Are
4 we calling the Borough because it's under -- so that's
5 the other layer to it is this is all managed as well by
6 the North Slope Borough, so. But there's no enforcement
7 on that side, at least law enforcement wise, there's
8 land management regulation. But all these different
9 layers, and what I want is a clear picture on why it's
10 like that? How did this come to be? And just to have
11 that explanation and it's not more -- it's not for that
12 purpose specifically. It's because at some point, we're
13 going to have three, four more other RAC members and
14 changeover, and we want to be able to describe to them
15 this is -- like if you don't know, here is a good outline
16 of what you should know about your lands. And why it's
17 like that. That's really the gist of it. It's not you
18 know -- I think we do have some outer lying issues with
19 fly-in hunters, but I think we're getting that out there
20 very well. But that's that that's moreover, what I was
21 going after was, why are there all these layers? And can
22 you explain them to us? How they came to be historically
23 and why it is, how it is? Yeah. I don't know if that
24 answered everything. Go ahead, Leonard.

25
26 MR. BARGER: Yeah. Just Leonard, for the
27 record. If you go on Google and you know, SRC or ANSCA,
28 you know, there's a line there to add on the map. So, I
29 was just googling and Gabe was just looking at ANCSA
30 stuff. So, there's a line boundaries and stuff. So, if
31 you could follow that, you know. So, I just want to
32 bring that up.

33
34 DR. VICKERS: Excellent. Now that your
35 descriptions really helped me, it sounds like why would
36 I hunt on BLM lands? Don't I go to -- why don't I go to
37 BLM, get a moose tag from BLM and if I see something on
38 BLM, I call BLM and they're the ones who are managing
39 that moose herd. Why is it BLM land but I go to ADF&G?
40 And so, then I don't even really know who to call if
41 there's an issue? Like it's all -- I mean for a user
42 this sounds incredibly complicated. And why are we here?
43 Why are we doing this? Why did -- how did this come to
44 be? Is that kind of more or less what you're looking
45 for?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, and a reason
48 why. Like if I go one mile offshore and which is
49 something that is federally protected, then we go catch
50 a seal, then we're or a walrus, then we're reporting to

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1 U.S Fish and Wildlife Services. So, it's a pretty
2 intricate system. So at least that portion is
3 straightforward. It's like it's federally protected and
4 we're going through a federal organization, which is as
5 it should be. But if we go inland on federal lands, then
6 we're reporting to ADF&G, which is kind of a curveball
7 to some degree. So, it's -- but we're used to it here.
8 It's been ingrained, but nobody really asked the
9 question, why is it like that? And I think I know the
10 answer, though. It's a home rule. Then it's the state's
11 supposed to be in charge of a few things. So, they have
12 one person designated for up north. And I think BLM is
13 moreover active with the energy side of things. And it's
14 -- yeah, it's -- but I don't want to be the one
15 describing that. I want it to come from the ones4 that
16 are that are there, you know, the -- from the actual the
17 organization so it's so plain and clear. This is why it
18 is like it is. And I think that would be a good
19 presentation for us at the RAC.

20

21 DR. VICKERS: All right. You got it.
22 We'll work on it. Try to see what we can do. Can't
23 promise a perfect product, but I promise we'll work on
24 it. So, thank you.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Looking forward to
27 the attempt. Anybody want a break? All right. I think
28 we'll go on a ten-minute break. And ten and a half. Ten
29 and a half. Starting now.

30

31 (Off record)

32

33 (On record)

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. I think
36 it's been ten and a half minutes. All right, so we've
37 had a lot of good discussions this morning. And let's
38 see. Still on Other Business item 14. 14.c, Upcoming
39 opportunities for public engagement. Gisela.

40

41 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well,
42 at the start of our meeting the Council and members of
43 the public discussed the needs for more outreach and
44 education efforts in the region. I think this is
45 something that we at OSM have heard from other Councils
46 as well. And at the same time, public engagement in the
47 Federal Subsistence Management Program is vital. So, I
48 just wanted to share some important dates for the public
49 to be aware about, and we brought some additional flyers
50 with information. This is at least what I knew was

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1 happening before I left Anchorage. There's new
2 developments now with different Wildlife Special Action,
3 so this might change but just wanted to bring this up
4 to your attention so that you're aware of the important
5 dates. So again, this might be a recap of everything
6 that we've already talked about in our Council meeting.
7 So, the call for Regional Advisory Council membership
8 applications and nominations is currently open and it
9 closes April 2nd. I did find out that people apply to
10 serve on the Council as individuals and not necessarily
11 represent an organization. That was the question that
12 was also brought up at the beginning of the meeting. So,
13 I just wanted to share that information. The Regional
14 Advisory Council meeting Winter 2026 cycle began
15 basically with our meeting and the Western Interior
16 meeting, and it continues through April 1st. And there's
17 websites that people can visit if they want to get more
18 information about that.

19
20 Again, the public hearing on Wildlife
21 Special Action WSA26-01 is scheduled for April 9th from
22 4 to 9. Sorry, 4 to 6. And it is available via Microsoft
23 Teams and teleconference. The Federal Subsistence Board
24 has their wildlife regulatory meeting April 20th to the
25 24th, and that will be in Anchorage. And that's when
26 they will decide on all the wildlife proposals that the
27 Council saw at the fall meeting -- that all the Council
28 saw at the fall -- at their fall meetings. And also, the
29 Federal Subsistence Board is meeting to discuss WSA26-
30 01 on June 3rd, also available by teleconference and
31 Teams. So, if the public wants to get more information,
32 I believe that we have the links and the phone numbers
33 to these -- through the public hearing and the Board's
34 meeting to the Wildlife Special Action already so that
35 -- yeah, you have access to that information.

36
37 And I also wanted to circle back to some
38 of the comments made earlier in our meeting in regard
39 to outreach and education, that's something that Brent
40 already kind of addressed with the needs for the map.
41 But I recall Council Member Itta also stating in her
42 subsistence report the need for education within her
43 community, about land status, about land use. Since
44 there's a lot of lands that are restricted, with
45 restricted access. And she also specifically mentioned
46 the need of federal agencies who issue permits to be
47 aware of the issues that are experienced in her community
48 and also to assist with education efforts. So, with that
49 said, I wanted to make the Council aware that you could
50 submit a letter formally requesting these concerns or

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1 formally sharing these concerns with the Federal
2 Subsistence Board or directly with the agency lead for
3 that. And then along the lines of outreach and education
4 for the general public. I also wanted to say that if
5 there are additional topics other than the ones that you
6 brought up earlier that we need to be aware of, we could
7 or the Council could have a working group to flesh out
8 and identify these topics so that we can be prepared and
9 try to have more information available to the public,
10 do more outreach on specific issues as well. And yeah,
11 so the Council can also submit a letter to OSM with
12 these specific requests, or we can flesh out the
13 individual needs of outreach and education, basically
14 to find a place to start and start providing more
15 information to the public as well.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any additional info
18 from the Council here for any of the subjects discussed?
19

20 (No response)

21
22 All right. I think a lot of the stuff
23 that we had discussed were at least in some form being
24 alleviated, especially for like the educational side,
25 it sounds like maybe for some of the fisheries and their
26 need for the volunteers and maybe providing some form
27 of education would be discussed sometime this summer.
28 An opportunity for that. So, I think that was somewhat
29 discussed and helped out with. Other than that, is there
30 anything else pertaining to letters or concerns?
31

32 (No response)

33
34 All right, nothing on the handout. All
35 right. Hearing none. Item 14, Council Member Closing
36 Comments. Billy, do you have a comment? From the floor.
37 Mr. Adams, you have the floor.
38

39 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Chairman Brower,
40 I mean Frantz. Well, I got it right either way. Chairman
41 Brower Frantz. And thank you Gisela, for your thing about
42 outreach. And I did talk to you to talk to Kendra about
43 reaching out to other community members like Point Lay
44 and Kaktovik and I'm really happy that I came to this
45 RAC meeting and a little more engaged because of what
46 this body means to your communities and talking about
47 public lands and, you know, we're here. We -- I was
48 watching the news this morning about our governor who's
49 that really tall guy. Anyways, Dan Levy and you know, I
50 have to thank the Department of Interior for holding off

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1 that land for 50 years for that road to Ambler Road. And
2 it helped those communities, you know, in their
3 livelihood and now it's turned over to the state where
4 they lose their rural preference. And think about that
5 weight that's happening in those communities. And it's
6 just like where Martha is from. They're surrounded by
7 industry. And all the impacts that go with it is -- you
8 know, sometimes I can't really fathom about it sometimes
9 and -- but it's real. And I know there's some positive
10 things about road access. You know, look at our roads
11 here, are dust and our living -- quality of living is
12 the prices of groceries and fuel that come with it is -
13 - so, it's like we have to travel to the moon and back
14 for where the other folks in the Lower 48 can -- \$3 a
15 gallon or something. And where Earl is from and other
16 folks, even folks from Kotzebue, Noatak at \$12 a gallon
17 or \$22 a gallon for fuel. Those are just kind of some
18 of the things I think about and the price of milk, you
19 know, costs more than fuel. But, you know, it's -- and
20 our leaders, the generation before us had all of this
21 in mind too and struggled with road access and what it
22 could do to our way of life. And I know there's talks
23 about roads on the North Slope that can have a lot of
24 implications to wildlife and people. But when people are
25 asking for things sometimes, they don't understand some
26 of the things that are very important to their culture
27 and their traditional way of life. And that's just one
28 thing that I was thinking about. And the other parties,
29 when the young lady talked about the fisheries and how
30 the change in climate has pushed a lot of other species
31 up north and is having impact to the usual, other folks
32 in Western Alaska, Southwestern Alaska. Just to say,
33 look at the map. There's only a few communities on the
34 North Slope, and that's how it is when we're harvesting,
35 like caribou and migratory ducks and whales. That's the
36 way built, God made it that way. But once you get down
37 past Kotzebue down south, that map and all those dots
38 are so numerous, it's 100 times more than this in an
39 area where their lifestyle is on salmon and other little
40 smaller stuff. But you know, they're being impacted
41 because they have hardly any more fish that they need,
42 like king salmon. That kind of stuff is moved way up
43 north now. And the things that go on with that and the
44 commercial fisheries that are impacting a lot of the
45 other ecosystem. You know, they're not too far from us,
46 and we'd like to keep them away from the range of the
47 bowhead whale and the range of the walrus range of the
48 polar bears. You know, it's a scary thought when you
49 think of commercial fishing that -- and in the United
50 States is, you know, they're keeping that kind of away.

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1 But there's other countries that are on the other side
2 that have their routes, like Russia is like transporting
3 goods year-round right on the other side of that border
4 and we don't know how many -- what kind of fish they're
5 doing. And they don't have laws about exploration. That
6 kind of stuff is, you know, we could see on the map that
7 they're traversing through Arctic waters and routes.
8 And, you know, I hope that this body can be supportive
9 to other entities that are involved in keeping the
10 commercial fisheries away from the Arctic Circle or the
11 North Slope, at least. I just wanted to thank you all
12 for coming to Utqiaġvik. And, you know, there's a lot
13 of polar bears right now, and I hope that -- I was
14 wishing to take some of you out there, but maybe you
15 guys are leaving at 2:00 or something. But there's a lot
16 of wildlife out there, and people are getting ready for
17 whaling. Quincy has a -- putting a skin on his frame.
18 And we had a nephew, Lucy. She's a captain. She put the
19 skins on her frame this week. And then people are --
20 folks who are hunting ringed seal on the ice. And I know
21 Quincy and some of my other grandnephews, you know, they
22 learned how to be on the ice by themselves. And I'm very
23 happy that they're going out there and doing what they
24 do during the winter months. Hunting on the sea ice has
25 been very close to me. And I learned and like in the 80s
26 or 90s, half the community members, elders would be on
27 the ice all the time year-round. Now, during these times,
28 it's a handful of folks that do like to go out and I'm
29 glad they're keeping their culture with them. And, you
30 know, we hope to see more young folks like interns that
31 get involved in this kind of group and other Alaska
32 Native organizations. I know the Ice Seal Committee has
33 worked with the University of Fairbanks and getting them
34 involved in doing projects. And I think Martha's talked
35 about some of the fisheries stuff and that they're
36 wanting to do. And you talked about how to get the
37 equipment and going through the maybe the tribes who
38 have insurance to have vehicles. I think whether North
39 Slope Borough Search and Rescues, you're part of it. But
40 I think those are -- there's some ways that it can go
41 through, you know, and I think ICAS has started to do
42 that kind of stuff already here in Barrow about the
43 Young Hunters Program and with -- where Peter is from
44 Anaktuvuk Pass, they have their you can Yukon Tuttu
45 Group, and we saw that and it's starting to do a lot
46 better of handling transporters and guides, so on and
47 so forth, and we hope to do everything that we can to
48 help with the (In Native) and Point Lay and Wainwright
49 about the concern about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
50 And I think that's all I got. It's -- (Indiscernible)

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1 (In Native).

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Billy, for your comments, concerns and your gratitude. We appreciate you as well. You guys are bar none there over at the wildlife department. Big helps [sic] for all of our discussions. You guys don't get enough praise. Alright with that Council Member Closing Comments. Maybe we'll start with Peter Williams, Anaktuvuk Pass.

MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have much to say because it's been really cold winter and a lot of animals are on the snow because some of those grandkids, they've seen some rabbits popping out of the snow and ptarmigan, so. They gotta keep warm too, so. I don't have much to say because there wasn't much happening, mostly flu and cold weather. So, I hope everybody keeps warm. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr. Williams. Leonard Barger, Point Hope. Closing comments.

MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I'd like to appreciate, you know, they're not being recognized. You know, there's a lot of people out there when they go hunting and they break down and they get lost. The volunteer search and rescue. I would like to appreciate them for volunteering and, you know, being there. I'm one of the guys. I'm -- I always volunteer all the time when I go search, and I'm always the first one to go. I don't wait for all that paperwork that we wait for Barrow. I go out there and me and my friend, we go out there right away. We know where that person is. We know their land. When it's stormy, we just look at a mountain. We know where we're at. And a couple times, you know, some guys were staying at chariot at the house. And it was stormy, growing storm. One of the captains called me and said, hey can you go get my friends? They're at Thompson. I think they're stuck and they don't want to come. They can't see. And so, I said, okay. It was during whaling time. Lucky thing there was no water, you know. I said, okay, I'll go over and go get them. And so, another friend of mine go follow me. And so, it was stormy there in that little house with the (In Native) and could see their nose, you know, from that carbon monoxide. And they're like, when I went in there, they're like, you guys ready to go Point Hope. Holy shit! Where do you come from? I was like, oh, yeah. Your cousin told me to go get you guys. You guys want to get ready to go Point Hope. Because on the other side

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1 of Point Hope, it was nice and clear, calm. But on the
2 other side of Chariot, Thompson, you know, stormy, but
3 you know, those kinds of things. You know, I like to
4 recognize, you know, even Brower, you know, when those
5 guys in Kotzebue, a few of them drowned. And guys from
6 Barrow, Brower was one of them. Those other guys went
7 over there and tried to help out, monitor and help. You
8 know, I was so happy, you know, Northwest Arctic Borough,
9 North Slope Borough worked together. And North Slope
10 Borough RAC and the North Slope Borough Wildlife, you
11 know, we all have to work together like this. You know,
12 glad Billy came up and recognized and appreciate. We
13 all appreciate everyone and those kind of things. And,
14 you know, we're getting ready for, like everybody say,
15 we're getting ready for whaling. That's our number one
16 priority to do because we do it for our people.

17
18 And on the caribou, you know, I've been
19 to a lot of places like Buckland. I -- Buckland, I had
20 to go get caribou from Buckland almost 450 miles, you
21 know, just to go get caribou, you know, because we didn't
22 have caribou at the time. So that's what we always have
23 to use for when we're out on the ice, is eating caribou.
24 And so, I would tell my (indiscernible), I say, hey, you
25 know, you need caribou you know, I could go, just help
26 me, you know, pay for my gas and stuff. And I got a
27 place to stay. Those kind of things. But very good
28 meeting. And, you know, I like to bring up, I was talking
29 to Martha, and, you know, the meeting, you know, I was
30 like, man could be a Nuiqsut, you know, our next meeting,
31 but it's already been brought up in our meeting, so. But
32 thank you very much.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, thank you, Mr.
35 Barger. There's always an opportunity at the next
36 meeting to change the location. Thank you, though, for
37 your closing comments. All right. Up next, we'll go with
38 Martha, Nuiqsut.

39
40 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council.
41 And I just wanted to thank everyone that's here that
42 participated and gave your reports and your input. It's
43 really good to learn and know the things that are out
44 there. To have everybody here all in one room that are
45 involved in, you know handling regulations and what have
46 you with our subsistence and our concerns that we put
47 forth and responding and trying to work with our Council,
48 with our villages. For listening to us for our concerns
49 and, you know, trying to alleviate our issues and trying
50 to work with us on them, even though it's hard and it's

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1 complicated a lot of the times, a lot of concerns you
2 know, we're seeking answers and you guys do your best
3 to give us those answers. I really appreciate that.

4
5 My seat is up this year, and I hope to
6 continue being here to -- in the future to work with you
7 guys and work with our subsistence issues for our
8 village. It's an honor to represent my Village of
9 Nuiqsut. And I observe a lot. I'm an all year-round
10 subsistence hunter, whaling crew member. Taught by my
11 grandparents. I've subsisted and hunted my whole life
12 since I was six years old. The one thing I wanted to ask
13 kindly is to keep our Village of Nuiqsut in your prayers.
14 We just lost the really good subsistence hunter, a
15 whaler, a father, a son and a cousin and it was to
16 suicide. So, I'd like to kindly ask you guys to keep our
17 village in prayer as they are grieving at this time.
18 And, you know, I'm -- it was hard for me to come here,
19 even though I was a day late. You know, I wanted to stay
20 with family, but I know the importance of being here and
21 being the voice for my community in hard times, too. So,
22 with that, I hope to keep representing our village, and
23 I hope to see you guys in the future. Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha.
26 We will keep your community of Nuiqsut in our prayers,
27 and we thank you for being here to provide support for
28 your community. And I'm glad you had some very important
29 points for us to discuss and go through with the entire
30 RAC here and the presenters. Thank you. All right. Up
31 next we have Quincy Adams, Utqiaġvik, closing comments.

32
33 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want
34 to give a big shout out to Gisela for all the hard work
35 that her and her team is doing, and getting these
36 meetings prepared and giving us the dialogue that we can
37 talk about on these important issues for our region. A
38 big shout out to Brower as well, even though it's giving
39 me the side eye when they put him back in the Chair
40 position. But, you know, there's always something to
41 take. Always something to learn from these kind of
42 meetings, you know, whether it be land issues, whether
43 it be animal issues, or all the resources that we use
44 to keep going. There's always something to learn and
45 take away a positive outlook from these kind of meetings,
46 which is always a good thing. And that science and
47 traditional knowledge, when you put them hand in hand
48 and they work together, when they work together, it goes
49 really smooth for our end, for the subsistence portion
50 and also for the scientific portion of it as well. Hope

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1 to keep coming to these meetings and hopefully we can
2 get some more people involved. You know, a couple other
3 villages like Point Lay and Kaktovik so we can get --
4 see and hear what's going on from their part of the
5 villages and condolences to the family that's in
6 Nuiqsut. Thank you, Martha. Thank you, Peter, Leonard,
7 for coming over here and putting some valuable insight
8 into our resources. I just want to thank you guys, and
9 we'll see you guys again in October or maybe sooner.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr.
12 Adams, for your kind words. All right. Do we have any
13 other RAC member online before I give mine?

14
15 (No response)

16
17 All right. Well for my closing comments,
18 I want to thank first and foremost, the North Slope
19 Borough. You guys are a great help for us. You guys are
20 the voice of our support for our folks, our communities
21 through the Fish and Game Management Committee as well
22 and being also the AC members for that portion of it.
23 You guys are really supportive of us and our fallback,
24 our shoulder to lean on whenever we need insight for
25 anything related to the North Slope. You guys are great
26 support for us, and we thank you for that. Also, I'd
27 like to thank the state and for being here. I know she's
28 not here today, but Carmen Daggett has been really
29 supportive of us as far as caribou and muskox over the
30 last few years. And I'm really happy they're open to
31 giving us more numbers and that's what we've been
32 searching for here for many years, many, many years. And
33 now it seems like they are actively being supportive of
34 the numbers and the requests that we made for getting
35 the numbers established and doing another count so that
36 we may have more opportunity for our subsistence
37 hunters. Which is fantastic. Even though it's only a few
38 numbers, it's a step in the right direction. I also
39 wanted to thank the BLM guys here. You guys are actually
40 -- the first time we've seen an actual request for an
41 issue to where either law enforcement or anybody else
42 has come up and been responsive to an issue. And we're
43 open to insight and taking documentation of it and it's
44 starting to show now. Thank you for that. We appreciate
45 you and thank you for being here. And OSM, I guess. No,
46 thank you guys. You guys work really hard to get all of
47 this done throughout the year, even though it's
48 communicating 50 to 60 times in between meetings. But
49 all of this is to better our subsistence and it, you
50 know, it's tiresome at times. But in reality, all of

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1 this is to support our subsistence community. And we'd
2 like to thank anybody in here that is a subsistence
3 hunter, because you are what we are fighting for. And
4 sometimes we get too deep into the meetings, and we have
5 to reevaluate what we're looking at and realize, you
6 know, we have to be supportive of our subsistence
7 community and that's what we're here for. Sometimes you
8 got to take a step back and look at it and -- but that's
9 the whole point that we're here is for subsistence. And
10 we hope to better our ways of communicating with all of
11 these agencies in our own guys on the ground and be that
12 conductor for communicating and/or the liaison to be
13 passing information effectively, efficiently and making
14 sure we're getting to the point to where we want to be
15 and be supportive of our communities.

16
17 And the other thing I want to say, you
18 know, pretty loud and clear is that we are still looking
19 for more RAC members. And if you know anybody, especially
20 within the communities of Kaktovik and Point Lay, right
21 now, are the two that we do not have RAC members for,
22 if we can get support or at least some applications out
23 to those communities would be very helpful. Especially
24 since one is within ANWR and we know there are multiple
25 hunters in that location. And also Point Lay, who is one
26 of the communities being affected by the last few years
27 of these changes for caribou for the Northwest Arctic
28 Caribou Herd. So please, if you know of anybody that
29 would be a good candidate for those two locations that
30 they submit applications. And that would be really
31 supportive of your local communities and subsistence as
32 a whole. But I do thank everybody here on the RAC for
33 being here. Thank you for all your insight. It's, you
34 know, it's very helpful for us. And, thank you
35 (indiscernible) for having us. And with that being said,
36 I'll turn it over to OSM. Thank you.

37
38 MS. CHAPA: I'm also going to point to
39 the back, my sight to the back of the room because I'm
40 not the only one for OSM that is present. But I'll speak
41 for myself and share that it's always a pleasure to be
42 part of these meetings and to get to know new people in
43 the community, get to know council members a little bit
44 better just by going to dinner, hanging out, etc. And I
45 think it's extremely helpful for me to fully understand
46 the scope of what this Council does and the implications
47 it may have on subsistence users on the land. So always
48 a pleasure to come up to Utqiagvik. I'm hoping that we
49 can also go have our meetings in different areas of the
50 region. And yeah, thank you always to council members

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1 and to the North Slope Borough, to all of the other
2 participants in the meeting. It's always great to see
3 your faces as well, and get your input as well. So now
4 I'm going to turn it over to the back of the room for
5 other OSM staff. If they want to say something good?
6 Okay, they're good.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you
9 everybody. It's really cold outside, so make sure to
10 warm up your trucks adequately and watch some power
11 steering hoses. It's very cold out. Thank you to
12 everybody online as well. Presenters and anyone who had
13 input for this, we appreciate you. And I hope you have
14 a good day. With that, any.....

15
16 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, make a motion to
17 adjourn.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion to adjourn.

20
21 MR. BARGER: Second.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
24 Barger. Any discussion. I think we should adjourn
25 because this meeting has been very long and that is the
26 details we need for closing. Any other discussion?

27
28 (Talking)

29
30 Oh, yeah. Thank you, Gabe. Thank you,
31 Gabe. Any other discussion?

32
33 (Whispered conversation)

34
35 MR. ADAMS: Say a prayer. Heavenly
36 father, we thank you again for another day. Thank you
37 for your blessings, your love and your mercy that you
38 give us each new day and each new morning. Father God,
39 we lift up the family for the loss of the loved one and
40 Nuiqsut that he may give him peace and comfort. Heavenly
41 father, that you cover him with your grace and your Holy
42 Spirit, and watch over their loved ones, wherever they
43 may be. Protect them from harm and evil. Father God, it
44 says in your word in Hebrews 11 that faith is the
45 substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things
46 not seen. Father God, thank you that we can go to your
47 word and go to you in prayer, that you may cover us with
48 your comforter -- your comforting Holy Ghost, your
49 presence, and thank you for your Son Jesus, who died on
50 the cross to give us life and to give us life more

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1 abundantly. Lord, we ask you for safe traveling, mercies
2 upon all those who will be going home. Watch over them
3 and their flights and the pilots as you bless their
4 hands and guide them, Lord God, as you've always done
5 for us. As you lift up everybody that's here that we --
6 that you can watch over us as these days go by. Protect
7 us from harm. Ensure safety upon us, or that you lead
8 us with your love and guide us every step of the way.
9 We thank you for this meeting. We thank you for all the
10 people that were involved. Lord, just be with us. We
11 thank you, again. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Amen. Alright. With
14 that being said, question was called for a adjournment.
15 We are adjourned. All those in favor of adjournment, say
16 aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you,
21 everybody online. We have adjourned.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 END OF PROCEEDINGS

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 41 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 25th day of February;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 4th day of March 2026.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager